



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/611,382

06/30/2003

Srikanth Shoroff

418268880US

1517

45979 7590 10/03/2007  
PERKINS COIE LLP/MSFT  
P. O. BOX 1247  
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247

EXAMINER

GEREZGIHER, YEMANE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2144

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/03/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/611,382	Applicant(s) SHOROFF ET AL.	
	Examiner Yemane M. Gerezgiher	Art Unit 2144	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-20, 23-28 and 30-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-20, 23-28, and 30-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. The response received on 07/05/2007 has been entered. Claims 1-10, 12-20, 23-28, and 30-35 remain pending in this application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10, 12-20, 23-28, and 30-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Midwinter et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,668,288) hereinafter referred to as Midwinter in view of Cofano et al. (US 20020059587 A1) hereinafter referred to as Cofano.

As per claims 1, 10, 23-24, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 35: (e.g., exemplary Independent claim 1) Midwinter disclosed in a network environment that includes a trusted network, an intranet and an external network, and a lobby server that intercedes to allow external computing systems to be scrutinized before being admitted to a data conference with one or more intranet computing systems, a method for the lobby server establishing a data conference between one or more intranet computing systems and one or more

external computing systems [Abstract, Fig. 1 and Column 1, Lines 39-60 and Column 2, Lines 29-32], the method comprising the following: an act of a lobby server receiving a request to establish a data conference from a conference organizing computing system in the intranet [Column 1, Lines 19-22 & Lines 51-56 and Column 4, Lines 44-65, data server receiving a request to establish a conference from an organizer utilizing a reservation system]; an act of determining that the conference organizing computing system is authorized to establish the data conference [Column 6, Lines 47-54, authorization access to establishing a data conference is determined]; an act of establishing a lobby the lobby being an object or group of objects to which potential participating computing systems in the external network that are awaiting authorization to join the data conference may be admitted [Column 3, Lines 28-35, incoming requests from a computing device from the external network is received by the data server, but only for purpose of connecting it to the master data server]; an act of receiving a request to join the lobby or data conference from at least one of the potential participating computing systems in the external network [Column 3, Lines 2-12 and Column 5, Lines 50-52, a communication terminal logically connected to the external network (the Internet) and receiving a request to join the data conference from the participants at the data server]; an act of joining the at least one of the potential participating computing systems to the lobby [Fig. 3, # 114 joining participant(s) to the data conference]; an act of notifying the conference organizing computing system

that the at least one potential participating computing system has requested access to the data conference [Column 4, Lines 26-65]; an act of receiving an indication from an intranet computing system that the at least one potential participating computing system is authorized to join the data conference [Column 6, Lines 46-53]; and an act of joining the at least one potential participating computing system to the data conference [Fig. 3, # 114 joining participants to the data conference]. Furthermore, since the invention of Midwinter is performed on a computer system, a computer readable storage media (claims 12-13, 27 & 35) storing the instructions on the computer readable storage media and when executed by a computer system for carrying out the functional limitations of the invention is inherently disclosed.

The teachings of Midwinter substantially disclosed the invention as claimed. However, failed to explicitly teach, "a lobby...to which a potential participating computing system in the external network are awaiting authorization to join the data conference may be admitted". However, as evidenced by the teachings of Cofano, "a lobby...to which a potential participating computing system in the external network are awaiting authorization to join the data conference may be admitted" was known in the art at the time the invention was made [See Fig. 7a-7d, # 701 ("a virtual waiting room"), Page 9, ¶0098, Page 7, ¶0081, ("Virtual Office Visit") and Page 8, ¶¶0083-0084, users awaiting authorization to join a conference on a virtual waiting room ("virtual lobby") and when appropriate (i.e., when a doctor

becomes available, a user/patient is admitted to a conference session from the virtual waiting area].

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the teachings of Cofano related to a virtual waiting room (a virtual lobby) and have modified the teachings of a Midwinter, because such a modification would allow users to take advantage of a virtual office visit via media conferencing without the actual time it takes to have a traditional office visit (see Cofano, Page 7, ¶0081 and Page 8, Lines ¶¶0084-0085).

As per claims 2, 14 and 25, The already combined teachings of Midwinter and Cofano disclosed that prior to the act of joining/admitting the at least one potential participating computing system to the lobby: an act of determining that the at least one potential participating computing system is authorized to join the lobby [Midwinter, Column 1, Lines 19-28 and Column 6, Lines 47-53, participating clients are challenged via authorization credentials including a password for joining the data conferencing, see also Cofano, Page 8, ¶¶0084-0085].

As per claims 3, 15 and 32, The already combined teachings of Midwinter and Cofano disclosed the act of determining that the at least one potential participating computing system is allowed to be admitted to the lobby comprises the following: an act of determining that the at least one potential participating computing system has properly provided a conference identifier

corresponding to the data conference [Midwinter, Column 1, Lines 19-28 and Column 6, Lines 47-53, identifier and/or password corresponding to the conferencing is determined and Cofano Page 7, ¶0081].

As per claims 4 and 16, The already combined teachings of Midwinter and Cofano disclosed an act of determining that the at least one potential participating computing system has properly provided a password corresponding to the data conference [this functional limitation is substantially similar to the limitation(s) recited in claims 2 and 3 above. Thus, it is rejected with the same rationale].

As per claims 5, 17 and 33-34, Midwinter disclosed an act of determining that the at least one potential participating computing system has properly provided a password corresponding to the data conference [Column 5, Lines 50-54, participating computing device providing a conference password].

As per claims 6 and 18, Midwinter disclosed an act of receiving an indication from the conference organizing computing system that the at least one potential computing system is authorized to join the data conference [Column 5, Lines 50-54, Column 1, Lines 19-28 and Column 6, Lines 47-53].

As per claims 7 and 19, Midwinter disclosed an act of facilitating communication between the conference organizing computing system and the at least one potential computing system in order to determine whether the at least one potential participating computing system is authorized to join the data conference [Column 5, Lines 5-55, a communication terminal in a private

secure intranet enterprise network and participating computing devices further including authentication of the participating computing devices for authorization to join the data conferencing is performed].

As per claims 8 and 20, Midwinter disclosed an act of receiving an indication from an intranet computing system other than the conference organizing computing system that the at least one potential computing system is authorized to join the data conference [Column 5, Lines 5-55 and Column 6, Lines 47-54, authorization access to join a data conference is determined].

As per claim 9, Midwinter disclosed an act of facilitating communication between the intranet computing system and the at least one potential computing system in order to determine whether the at least one potential participating computing system is authorized to join the data conference [Column 5, Lines 5-55, a communication terminal in a private secure intranet enterprise network and participating computing devices further including authentication of the participating computing devices for authorization to join the data conferencing is performed].

As per claim 26, Midwinter disclosed an act of challenging the at least one participating computing system such that the at least one participating computing system may successfully achieve the challenge if they are on an invitation list [Column 5, Lines 20-49, inviting and challenging invited participants of the data conference].



***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, which better address the claimed invention as amended.

***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

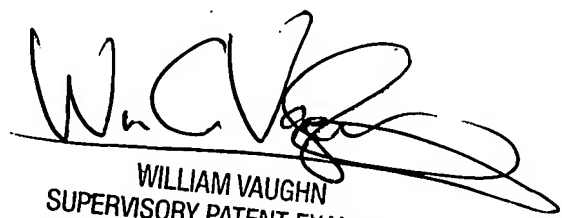
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yemane M. Gerezgiher whose telephone number is (571) 272-3927. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Y. Gerezgiher  
Patent Examiner  
AU: 2144, TC: 2100

  
WILLIAM VAUGHN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100